

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

As is evident from FIGURE 6 FIGURES 6 and 9, an in-line flow path is thus provided maintained from the dust inlet 214 through the aperture 205 of the dirt cup to an inlet of the motor fan and assembly N. More specifically, dirty air flows into the dust inlet 214 and thus into the cyclonic chamber 212 defined within the dirt cup 202. As illustrated by the arrow 260 the airflow into the chamber 212 is tangential. This causes a vortex-type flow as is illustrated by arrows 262. Such vortex flow is directed downwardly in the dust chamber 212 since the top end thereof is blocked by the lid 208.

The air flows radially inwardly and through the filter 230. The air then flows axially downwardly through the hollow interior of the filter 230 as illustrated by arrow 264. Subsequently, the air flows through the support wall opening 246, the motor support opening 252 and into and through the suction motor and fan assembly N as is illustrated by arrow 266. After being exhausted from the motor and fan assembly, the air flows through a conduit 270 defined in the upright housing section of the vacuum cleaner and into a plenum 272 which holds an output filter 274. This is illustrated schematically by the arrows 276 and 278 in FIGURE 6.

On page 5, beginning at line 11, please replace the paragraphs pertaining to Figures 8 and 9 with the following new paragraphs:

Figure 8 is an assembled schematic perspective view of the dust cup, filter rack and filter of Figure 7 with a lid spaced away therefrom; and,

Figure 9 is a greatly enlarged side elevational schematic view of a motor and seal interface for the vacuum cleaner of Figure 6; and,

Figure 10 is an enlarged top plan view of a filter having a convoluted outer surface according to the present invention.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 with the following new paragraph:

The filter element K preferably comprises POREX brand, high density polyethylene-based, open-celled, porous media available commercially from Porex Technologies Corp. of Fairburn, Georgia 30212, or an equivalent foraminous filter media. This preferred filter media is a rigid open-celled media. This preferred filter media is a rigid open-celled foam that is modable, machinable, and otherwise workable into any shape as deemed advantageous for a particular application. The preferred filter media has an average pore size in the range of 45 μ m to 90 μ m. It can have a substantially cylindrical configuration as is illustrated in FIGURE 5 or any other suitable desired configuration. The filter element could also have a convoluted outer surface (see FIGURE 10) to provide a larger filtering area. Some filtration is also performed by the dirt in the bottom end of the dirt cup in the dirt L as shown by the arrow M.